(d) if not, the reasons for delay?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (d) Planning Commission has not suggested any alternate way to sell foodgrains in place of selling it through the Public Distribution System. However, Governments of Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Delhi submitted proposals for direct disbursement of food subsidy in cash to BPL families in lieu foodgrains under TPDS on a pilot basis in five districts - Lakhimpur Kheri and Hardoi in Uttar Pradesh, Panchkula and Jhajjar in Haryana and Central district in Delhi. Based on those proposals, a draft scheme has been prepared to test the feasibility of the alternative mode of transfer of food subsidy to BPL/AAY beneficiaries under TPDS. The draft scheme is under examination.

Recommissioning of fertilizer plant at Talcher

†*38. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that United Progressive Alliance Government in its previous tenure had announced many times that the closed fertilizer plant in Talcher in Orissa would be re-commissioned soon;

(b) whether it was also announced that the control of this plant would be transferred from loss-making Fertilizers Corporation of India (FCI) to profit making Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers (RCF);

(c) if so, the steps taken and progress made in this regard so far;

(d) whether State Government has sent any memorandum or request letter to Union Government to restart this plant; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI M.K. ALAGIRI): (a) to (e) The Government on 12th April, 2007 decided to examine the feasibility of reviving the various closed units of Fertilizer Corporation of India Limited (FCIL) including its Talcher Unit and Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Ltd. (HFCL), subject to confirmed availability of gas. After due examination of technical and economic feasibility, the Government has further decided on 30th October, 2008, to constitute an Empowered Committee of Secretaries under the Chairmanship of Secretary (Fertilizers) and Secretaries of Department of Expenditure, Department of Disinvestment, Planning Commission, Department of Public Enterprises and Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas as Members to look into all possible financial models for revival of each of the closed units including the Talcher unit of FCIL. The Committee is also required to look into various linkages including gas for facilitating revival of these units. The Committee will submit its recommendations including the model for revival of each of the closed units to the Government.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Government also accorded in principle approval for considering the write off of Government of India loans and interest liabilities of FCIL and HFCL subject to submission of fully tied up proposals.

Pursuant to above decisions, in the first meeting of the Empowered Committee of Secretaries, it was decided to appoint Projects and Development India Limited (PDIL), a premier fertilizer consultancy organization under the Department of Fertilizers for asset evaluation in respect of various closed units including Talcher unit. Further, financial consultants have also been appointed by PDIL in coordination with the Companies for examining the various possible options for revival of each of these units including the Talcher unit. The report of the consultants is yet to be received.

Since the options for revival of Talcher unit are currently under examination, no decision for transfer of this unit to Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers Limited has been taken by the Government. Further, Union Government is not in receipt of any memorandum or request letter from the State Government to restart the Talcher unit of FCIL.

Touts controlling waitlisted ticket confirmation quota

*39. SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR:
SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of various quotas under which waitlisted tickets are confirmed;

(b) the number of waitlisted tickets confirmed under various quotas in Northern Railway during the last four months till date, quota-wise and class-wise;

(c) whether ticket confirmation under various quotas by Railway Board is under control of middlemen;

(d) if not, the reasons why tickets are not confirmed against the requisition of MPs and whether any enquiry would be conducted into the said issue and whether officials of Railway Board found guilty will be punished; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) Waitlisted tickets are normally confirmed against the cancellation of already confirmed tickets, through Emergency Quota and release of various unutilised quotas provided in the trains *viz.* Tatkal Quota, Defence Department Quota, Out Station Quota, Foreign Tourist Quota, Senior Citizen Quota, Parliament House Quota etc.

(b) As some of the waitlisted tickets get confirmed against various quotas, cancellations, and passengers not turned up, separate data of waitlisted tickets getting confirmed under various quotas is not feasible to be maintained zone-wise and class-wise due to very large number of trains operating every day.

(c) No, Sir. Question does not arise.